

Minimum requirements for the sustainability assessment of DB suppliers



Sustainability assessment as standard

A clear commitment to sustainability and to environmental, economic and social responsibility is integral to the actions of DB AG and to our Strong Rail strategy. Working with demonstrably sustainable suppliers is an essential part of this.

We expect our suppliers to comply with minimum requirements in relation to the environment, labour and human rights, ethics and sustainable procurement. This compliance must be comprehensively documented in an assessment process, reviewed by an independent expert provider and verified based on the evidence. You can use the results of your sustainability assessment to prove your compliance.

Does your company have a valid assessment from a recognised provider?

If your company has a valid sustainability assessment from a provider whose standards have been recognised as equivalent to our contract terms, you can use the assessment result to prove you meet the minimum requirements. For example:

EcoVadis: Total score of at least **45 points** (and a score of at least 40 points in the individual topic areas)

Creditreform: ESG rating with an overall rating score of at least **C1** (and C3 in the sub-ratings)

Dr. Binner Akademie: MITO ESG rating with an overall **rating score of 4** (and a score of at least 3 in the clusters)

NQC: SAQ 5.0 rating with a score of at least **65%**

If you have a sustainability assessment from a provider not yet recognised as equivalent, the first step is to obtain [recognition of equivalence](#). The provider and DB will then determine to what extent the rating can count towards the minimum requirements.

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Proof of sustainability/fulfilment of minimum requirements

Verified compliance with the minimum requirements proves that your company meets our defined minimum standards in relation to the environment, labour and human rights, ethics and sustainable procurement. This means:

1. There is a structured and proactive approach to sustainability in the relevant topic areas
2. Effective measures are taken, e.g. through appropriate guidelines for implementing the defined approaches to sustainability
3. Management of and comprehensive reporting on measures and performance indicators is in place
4. The importance of sustainability is extensively promoted both internally and externally
5. Continuous improvement takes place if required

Depending on the context of your specific company (sector, country, number of employees), your efforts in the topic areas above will mainly involve the following aspects (minimum requirements).

ENVIRONMENT

- Energy consumption and greenhouse gases
- Water
- Biodiversity
- Air pollution
- Raw materials, chemicals and waste
- Product use
- End of product life
- Customer health and safety
- Environmental services and advocating for the environment

LABOUR AND HUMAN RIGHTS

- Employee health and safety
- Working conditions
- Social dialogue
- Career management and training
- Child and forced labour and human trafficking
- Diversity, justice and inclusion
- Human rights of external stakeholders

ETHICS

- Tackling corruption
- Tackling anti-competitive practices
- Responsible information management

SUSTAINABLE PROCUREMENT

- Environmental practices of suppliers
- Social practices of suppliers